

**Bonneville Power Administration  
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal Form**

**Section 1. General administrative information**

**GRANDE RONDE MODEL WATERSHED -  
PROJECT PLANNING/SUPPORT**

**Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project** 9202601

**Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding**  
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program; Union & Wallowa Counties

**Business acronym (if appropriate)** GRMWP

**Proposal contact person or principal investigator:**

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**Subcontractors.** List one subcontractor per row; to add more rows, press Alt-Insert from within this table

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
Eastern Oregon University	1410 L Avenue	La Grande, OR 97850	Mary Voves
Union County	1106 K Avenue	La Grande, OR 97850	Marlene Perkins
Wallowa County	101 S. River	Enterprise, OR 97828	Jackie Fleming

**NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.**

7.0 (7.0B.1; 7.6; 7.6C; 7.6D; 7.7B.2-3; 7.8A.4-5)

**NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.**

N/A

**Other planning document references.**

If the project type is “Watershed” (see Section 2), reference any demonstrable support from affected agencies, tribes, local watershed groups, and public and/or private landowners, and cite available documentation.

Endangered Species Act Requirements as described in the National Marine Fisheries Service Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan (NMFS 1995, U. S. Dept. Of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin., Washington, DC), Tasks 1.1b, 1.4d, 1.4b, 1.5b, and 1.6b.

Stream and Riparian Conditions in the Grande Ronde Basin (Clearwater BioStudies, 1993, GRMWP).

Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program Operations/Action Plan (1993).

Wallowa County-Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan (1993).

Grande Ronde Ecosystem Diagnosis & Treatment Study (Mobrand 1997).

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Plans, watershed analyses, etc. as applicable to federal lands in the Grande Ronde basin.

Memorandum of Understanding - program partners (1993 - attached to hard copy).

**Subbasin.**

Grande Ronde

**Short description.**

Coordinate, plan, implement, and monitor habitat restoration in T&E chinook and steelhead streams; build community-wide participation in watershed restoration among the diverse interests of the Grande Ronde basin; develop innovative ideas in watershed planning; conduct seminars for stakeholders; facilitate interagency coordination/cooperation in habitat restoration and cumulative effectiveness monitoring.

**Section 2. Key words**

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
X	Anadromous fish	*	Construction	X	Watershed
	Resident fish	*	O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics

<input type="checkbox"/> Oceans/estuaries	<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> * Ecosystems
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	<input type="checkbox"/> * Monitoring/eval.	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow/survival
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource mgmt	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish disease
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Planning/admin.	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplementation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> * Wildlife habitat en-
	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisitions	<input type="checkbox"/> hancement/restoration

**Other keywords.**

### **Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project title/description</b>	<b>Nature of relationship</b>
9402700	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Habitat Projects	Represents the on-the-ground project implementation portion of the GRMWP. (Does not include the project development/planning, coordination, technical support or management.)
9403000	RASP in the Grande Ronde Basin	Grande Ronde Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Project provides a science-based methodology to the planning process that incorporates local values and objectives. The project uses a patient-template analysis, with chinook salmon as the diagnostic species, to analyze and prioritize restoration alternatives, and implement selected actions.
9403900	Wallowa Basin Project	Provides technical support from the Nez Perce Tribe in sub-basin plans, project development, and coordination with tribal priorities for restoration activities.
9702500	Wallowa/Nez Perce Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan Implementation	To aid with implementation of the Wallowa County-Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan, in coordination with GRMWP activities.
9703100	Meadow Creek Instream Structure and Riparian Evaluation	Monitoring of past efforts and adaptive management.
9202604	Spring Chinook Early Life History	Provides research for critical information to the GRMWP in

		understanding how the river system is being used by spring chinook, allowing for better focus with restoration efforts in the Grande Ronde basin.
8402500	Joseph Creek, Grande Ronde River, Oregon (ODFW)	Involves partnership efforts with Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. ODFW representatives serve on the model watershed technical committee and the Board of Directors. Representatives are an integral part of project planning and development. The GRMWP utilized ODFW expertise in the Grande Ronde Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Project. Working together in restoration efforts has enhanced opportunities for both groups.

## Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

### *Objectives and tasks*

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	To maintain ongoing program administration and Board of Directors' activities.	a	Schedule, conduct, and report on Board meetings; address Board member requests and concerns; supervise program administration and correspondence.
		b	Schedule, conduct, and report on Technical Committee meetings and operations; link technical committee activities and recommendations to Board activities.
		c	Coordinate program activities with other natural resource management agencies concerned with the Grande Ronde basin (i.e., facilitate monthly round-table planning discussions).
2	Project Planning, Sub-watershed Analysis and Action	a	Work with technical committee to develop biological criteria to

	Plans. Compile environmental assessment information of critical salmon/steelhead sub-watersheds, identify gaps in information, work with landowners to develop sub-watershed plans to restore aquatic habitat areas within the Grande Ronde basin. Develop site-specific projects to protect and restore critical habitat areas.		prioritize restoration projects, and review the criteria annually. Work with the committee on project proposal format. Prioritization of habitat restoration projects.
		b	Work with technical committee to identify and prioritize sub-watersheds in the Grande Ronde basin; conduct assessments concurrently; coordinate with other entities in the basin to achieve joint planning activities; develop monitoring plans for watersheds; and provide for evaluation of projects.
		c	Progress toward completion of sub-watershed action plans for the sub-watersheds in the Grande Ronde basin. Coordinate planning with other natural resource agencies concerned with the basin. Integrate water quality management plans (as required by EPA/Department of Environmental Quality TMDL process and Dept. of Agriculture Senate Bill 1010 guidance - compliance with Clean Water Act) to avoid duplication of planning efforts in the Grande Ronde basin.
		d	Preparation of proposals for funding on-the-ground project actions/implementation; coordination of project implementation/project management.
3	Public Information/Involvement and Education Activities. To	a	Provide a forum for discussion of watershed issues, a place for

	provide and maintain ongoing public information/involvement activities in support of the GRMWP, and support educational activities to enhance watershed restoration actions within the Grande Ronde basin. Coordinate opportunities with others in the basin (i.e., Soil & Water Conservation Districts).		constituencies to listen and understand each others interests and perspectives.
		b	Conduct public information meetings, tours, represent GRMWP at county fairs, etc.
		c	Organize & coordinate educational seminars and activities for stakeholders, including technical information on watershed restoration and management actions, and monitoring and evaluation actions.
		d	Publish newsletters, articles, brochures on BMP's.
4	Interagency Coordination/Clearing House. To aid coordination and facilitate interagency cooperation in habitat restoration actions on public and private lands in the Grande Ronde basin. To serve as a clearinghouse for information dissemination about restoration/research actions being conducted by agencies within the Grande Ronde basin.	a	Establish and maintain regular contact with natural resource agencies concerned with the Grande Ronde basin, exchange information, coordinate planning and project actions, foster cooperative agreements for project planning and restoration actions and funding. Coordination will be conducted on the local, regional, state, and federal levels.
		b	Provide a data base that assimilates and maintains an inventory of past and current habitat restoration actions within the Grande Ronde basin (across all land ownerships), disseminate

			information to natural resource management agencies, including an annual summary.
		c	Coordinate development of GIS map products such as subbasin detail maps, project maps.
5	Monitoring. Provide for effectiveness monitoring of cumulative effects on focus subbasins.	a	In partnership with SWCD's, implement project monitoring, identify gaps and develop long-term monitoring plans. Utilize strategy developed by GRMWP technical committee; produce a written annual report including summaries and analysis of data collected (from all entities).
		b	Coordinate monitoring efforts with those initiated by the Oregon Plan, including DEQ-TMDL plan and ODA - SB1010 water quality planning process.
6	Technical Support - for Projects.	a	Assist with project engineering and design.
		b	Provide for on site technical assistance, coordination, and project management during implementation.
		c	Purchase of equipment necessary to perform the technical support role.
7	Update of Assessments/Planning Documents	a	Update GRMWP planning documents to integrate the recent ESA listing of steelhead; the TMDL water quality planning process, and in coordination with NMFS/USFWS - develop Habitat Conservation Plans for both the Wallowa and Grande Ronde subbasins.

***Objective schedules and costs***

<b>Objective #</b>	<b>Start Date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>End Date mm/yyyy</b>	<b>Cost %</b>
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1	01/1999	12/1999	27
2	01/1999	12/1999	23
3	01/1999	12/1999	5
4	01/1999	12/1999	10
5	01/1999	12/1999	8
6	01/1999	12/1999	8
7	01/1999	12/1999	19

**Schedule constraints.**

Landowner willingness to participate in the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program;  
inability to fund the program or project activities..

**Completion date.**

Undetermined at this time.

## Section 5. Budget

***FY99 budget by line item***

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel	staff	\$152,000
Fringe benefits	S/L, Vacation (no retirement/ins.)	26,900
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		15,000
Operations & maintenance	bldg. rent, phones, office machines, vehicle	42,500
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel	Board members, staff	5,000
Indirect costs	USFS Admin.	8,000
Subcontracts	Monitoring, Technical Support-project engineering & design	35,000
Other	County sub-basin groups	8,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$292,400</b>

***Outyear costs***

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total budget	\$295,000	\$295,000	\$295,000	\$295,000
O&M as % of total	0	0	0	0

## **Section 6. Abstract**

Wallowa and Union Counties are partners with the Northwest Power Planning Council in developing a "model" for watershed restoration at the grass-roots local level, to be integrated with regional efforts. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMWP), which began in 1992, was also certified through the Governor's office in Oregon by the Strategic Water Management Group.

The mission of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program is to "develop and oversee the implementation, maintenance, and monitoring of coordinated resource management that will enhance the natural resources of the Grande Ronde River basin." Goals include: 1) provide for restoration & enhancement of habitat for anadromous salmonids in the basin, 2) provide recommendations for the management of the basin resources which will enhance the quality and quantity of river flow, 3) conduct a public involvement program to address the concerns of landowners, land managers, and resource users in the basin, and 4) assure that watershed management activities implemented in the basin are adequately monitored and evaluated on a coordinated basis.

The 1994 Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program (section 7.0) calls for a "model watershed" program to be included in an ecosystem approach to species recovery. This approach requires close coordination of habitat and production measures. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed is the "model" for the state of Oregon. The model watershed program brings relevant interests together to address the needs of weak fish populations of the Grande Ronde basin. A total watershed perspective in which fish needs, land and water conditions, and local, private, and government initiatives are viewed together, will play an essential role in the ultimate success of efforts to rebuild salmon and steelhead runs.

The GRMWP initiated the Grande Ronde Ecosystem Diagnosis & Treatment Study; the study provides technical information to the Board of Directors and Technical Committee. This was motivated by the need for a science-based methodology that promotes effectiveness & accountability. The analysis focuses on spring chinook salmon as the diagnostic species in the assessment of the condition of the watershed.

An effectiveness monitoring strategy, developed by the Technical Committee is being implemented. The monitoring is a coordinated effort by all entities/agencies monitoring in the basin, following protocols developed by the Environmental Protection Agency for water quality. Data is collected, compiled, documented, and a report produced annually.

## **Section 7. Project description**

### **a. Technical and/or scientific background.**

This project is specific to the Grande Ronde River basin. Spring chinook salmon were listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in the Grande Ronde basin in May of 1992. Steelhead were listed as "threatened" under ESA in the Grande Ronde basin in October of 1997. The GRMWP is the integration of local habitat restoration efforts with regional actions as outlined by the Northwest Power Planning Council in their 1994 Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Program (Sections 7.0B.1, 7.6, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7b.2-3, 7.8A.4-5), and Endangered Species Act Requirements as described in the National Marine Fisheries Service Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan (NMFS 1995, tasks 1.1.b, 1.4.d, 1.4.b, 1.5.b, and 1.6.b).

#### Beginning the Program:

In April 1992, the Commissions from Union and Wallowa Counties determined that a grass-roots, locally based effort working to coordinate existing local, state and federal programs could effectively maintain, enhance, and restore the watershed. Joining in this effort, the NWPPC selected the Grande Ronde basin as a "model" for the state of Oregon, and the Governor's office certified the program. BPA and others have cost-shared to provide funding. This endeavor covers the Blue Mountain region of northeastern Oregon, 5,265 sq. miles, 280 streams and rivers containing 2,900 miles of fisheries, with landownership being 60% public and 40% private.

#### Board, Subbasin Groups, Technical Committee:

The Board of Directors represents a diverse group of interests with the common vision of a healthy watershed. Participants include stock-growers, farmers, Native American tribes, environmental groups, elected officials, public lands, community, forestry, and fish & wildlife representatives. Initial tasks and accomplishments included creating partnerships and developing a mission, goals, and objectives.

Each respective county appointed subbasin groups to coordinate with the GRMWP and focus specifically on issues pertinent to that county. A member of each group serves as ad hoc on the Board of Directors to provide a liaison role and aid in communication, transfer requests for project decision and action, and support activities.

A technical committee was formed consisting of biologists, a hydrologist, a soil scientist, and other resource specialists to advise and provide recommendations to the Board on planning direction, technical issues, and to review and evaluate project proposals for technical merit and adequacy. Local agency staffs, the tribes, and private individuals with technical expertise are playing a crucial, key role in the model watershed process in serving on this committee. This committee is an effective means for ensuring cooperation and coordination among agencies and the various projects and activities in the basin.

#### Scientific Input/Writing a Plan:

Available stream survey data were compiled into a Habitat Assessment (Stream & Riparian Conditions in the Grande Ronde Basin, Clearwater BioStudies, 1993) to provide a sound "starting point" to develop a plan and focus on restoration activities. The Operations/Action Plan and Wallowa County-Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan serve as a basin-wide framework to identify priority watersheds for detailed planning and restoration projects. These include restoration criteria to aid in the process of prioritizing project actions. Staff is continuing to work with landowner groups to develop plans and projects.

The GRMWP initiated the Grande Ronde Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Study (GREDT - Mobrand Biometrics, 1997). This was undertaken to provide technical information to the Board and Technical Committee. The study was motivated by a need for a science-based methodology that promotes effectiveness and accountability. The analysis focuses on spring chinook salmon, which serves as a diagnostic species, in the assessment of the condition of the watershed for sustainability of its resources and related societal values.

An effectiveness monitoring strategy has been developed and is being incorporated into the model watershed restoration activities. On-going monitoring has been identified and coordinated and used as a basis to recognize gaps that need to be addressed. Each restoration project also contains a monitoring component. Several projects include monitoring by local high school students.

#### Working with Landowners/Project Implementation:

The GRMWP serves as an educational forum for landowner groups through coordination with the Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, and sub-watershed landowner groups. Additionally, the model watershed has established the role as facilitator to improve dialogue among local, state, tribes, and federal natural resource agencies by hosting monthly round-table discussions and coordination sessions. This has been especially successful in encouraging coordination on issues beyond normal jurisdictional boundaries, and creating cooperative incentive-based ways to encourage private landowners to take part in restoration efforts.

The GRMWP has assisted in the development, funding, and implementation of approximately 180 restoration projects. Cost-share for these projects has been available through private landowners, local, state and federal agency programs, as well as private groups and organizations. Funds received from Bonneville Power Administration have been leveraged to enhance the return on investment; up to 6 to 1 in some cases. The scope of these projects address factors such as fish passage structures/irrigation diversion improvements, riparian and rangeland management/off-stream water development, water quality (sediment & erosion reduction, temperature), water quantity, fish habitat complexity (large woody debris placement), stream morphology, and road obliteration & improvements.

Multiple agencies and citizens share partnerships with the GRMWP, which are critical to

its success. Funding received from BPA is leveraged for a considerable amount of in-kind services, research grants, and project funding to enable the implementation of Program goals. The Bureau of Reclamation has contributed funding in staff support, technical assistance/writing, research, and consultation. The Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board has provided technical support and project implementation funds. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has provided technical assistance, and to the extent feasible, aligned their planning operations, watershed analysis, and watershed restoration efforts with those of the GRMWP. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Union and Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and state agencies (ODFW, ODF, DEQ, OWRD) contribute staff planning support, technical assistance, project management, and facilitation for landowner meetings. Computer systems have been provided by Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and Oregon Water Resources Department.

Innovative Directions:

GRMWP is integrating watershed planning into the community and the community into watershed planning. Baseline operation and administration of the GRMWP is provided by an Executive Director, Program Planner, Data Base/GIS Technician, & clerical staff. Funding to maintain program staffing and allow planning, coordination, and implementation of restoration actions to continue is critical. Without local involvement, support, and cooperation, there may be no fish runs to discuss. The people on the ground can and will make a difference.

**b. Proposal objectives.**

Project reports and technical papers include:

- \*Quarterly reports to BPA for contract compliance
- \*Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program Charter Brochure
- \*Assessment of Stream & Riparian Conditions in the Grande Ronde Basin (Clearwater BioStudies, 1993)
- \*Grande Ronde Operations/Action Plan; Bear Creek Watershed Action Plan; Big Sheep Coordinated Resource Management Plan; Little Sheep Creek CRMP; Catherine Creek CRMP
- \*Grande Ronde Ecosystem Diagnosis & Treatment Study (Mobrand Biometrics, 1997)
- \*Grande Ronde Water Quality Monitoring Report (1997)
- \*Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, "Partnerships for Success," manuscript & slide presentation

The program was developed as a "model" of citizen-based natural resource planning for local government and the Northwest Power Planning Council. Lessons learned in this effort can be applied to other watersheds.

Administration, development and implementation of watershed plans and projects to restore watershed function and improve salmonid production while maintaining a vigorous natural resource based economy. A diverse, local citizen-based group can motivate fellow citizens and move forward with watershed restoration programs that measurably improve water quality, fish habitat, and local economy.

Maintaining and improving the productivity of salmon & steelhead habitat is an extremely complex task and requires coordination of virtually all activities that occur in a subbasin. The best approach to watershed restoration activities is for activities to be cooperatively undertaken by local, federal, and state agencies, and tribal and private parties. A comprehensive watershed approach can help fisheries resources recover from their depressed state and minimize impacts to local economies. Effective habitat restoration activities can be implemented only after stream-specific conditions are identified and habitat objectives determined.

See section 4 for extended list of objectives & tasks.

**c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.**

ODFW spawning grounds surveys indicate an increase across the Grande Ronde basin and Imnaha from 129 redds in 1995 to 432 redds in 1996. Part of this can be attributed to improved habitat, passage, and flow conditions; as well as recognizing that the return is influenced by strong parent escapement in the basin in 1992.

Chinook salmon access to premium spawning grounds in highest productivity stream (Catherine Creek) improved through replacement and reconstruction of three major diversion structures.

Improved water quality (and salmonid habitat, from invertebrate populations to alvine survival rate) in Upper Grande Ronde River through protection of banks and road closures/improvements.

Placement of woody debris, increasing channel complexity. Through educational efforts, insured that logs and woody debris already in place were not removed from streams.

Chinook spawning ground improvements through irrigation diversion modifications and improvements.

Improved fry & smolt survival through increased water flows and reduced temperatures due to irrigation diversion reductions.

**d. Project history**

Reports - see section 7, b.

Year One:

\*\* Compile a compendium of all sources of human & fiscal resources that are potentially available for protection & improvement of habitats for the model watershed. Coordinate this activity on a regional and state level, as appropriate.

\*\* Identify all parties with an interest in the model watershed. Set up procedures to include all these parties in the development & implementation of the model watershed. Convene a watershed conference that includes all parties with an interest in the model watershed.

\*\* Compile all existing plans, programs, policies, laws and other appropriate items that relate to comprehensive watershed management in each model watershed.

\*\* Identify gaps and conflicts in the existing plans, programs, policies, laws and other appropriate items that hinder comprehensive watershed management in each model watershed.

\*\* Set out a path and procedures for filling gaps and addressing conflicts.

\*\* Identify key factors limiting salmon and steelhead productivity.

\*\* Identify priority on-the-ground actions to address key limiting factors.

\*\* Provide for the involvement of volunteers and educational institutions in the implementation of projects.

Year Two:

\*\* Begin implementation of priority on-the-ground actions that address key limiting factors for chinook salmon production through the implementation planning process (Sec. 7.1B of Plan). In addition, initiate the path & procedures for filling gaps and addressing conflicts.

Years Three and Four:

\*\* Development of sub-watershed action plans and small landowner groups to aid the program in identification of potential solutions to limiting factors (environmental conditions) and work toward voluntary habitat restoration projects to address those conditions.

\*\* Technical direction and review regarding priority on-the-ground actions that address limiting factors. Provide this information to Board of Directors to be utilized in the funding decision process. Approximately 140 restoration projects are in implementation stages.

#### Year Five:

\*\* Continued development of sub-watershed action plans/CRMP's with landowner groups, agencies, and tribal governments to aid in the identification of potential solutions to limiting factors (environmental conditions) and work toward voluntary habitat restoration projects to address those conditions.

\*\* Continued project development with private landowners & agencies.

\*\* Technical review and prioritization of proposed on-the-ground actions that address limiting factors. Provide information to the Board of Directors to be utilized in the funding decision process. Approximately 55 proposals were submitted for FY97, 39 of those were funded. A total of 180 restoration projects have been implemented through the model watershed process.

\*\* Project data base developed to correspond with GIS mapping capability; information disseminated to local government, state & federal agencies, tribal governments, and others interested in project activities.

\*\* Clearing house/data base developed to provide information on watershed restoration projects from 1985 - present (by all entities working in the basin); corresponding map developed.

\*\* Monitoring strategy developed and implemented; coordinated with all entities monitoring in the basin, agreed upon protocols to use; first annual monitoring report compiled and distributed (cumulative effectiveness monitoring).

These objectives, and more, have been fulfilled under the 1992-1997 contract. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program is continuing with salmonid habitat restoration project planning, implementation, and the environmental monitoring phase to restore critical salmonid streams in the Grande Ronde basin, and requests funding support for program operation and planning, and core activities to fulfill the objectives of the NWPPC's Strategy for Salmon Volume II in the Columbia Basin. The core activities to be undertaken are described in the following proposal.

#### **Cost Sharing and Services Provided by Partner Agencies**

Multiple agencies share partnerships with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, which are critical to its success. Although there is no baseline funding from any other

source, a considerable amount of services, research grants, and project funding is provided to enable the implementation of the goals of the Program.

The Oregon Watershed Health Program (OWHP) made available \$5.0 million to support watershed project funding and technical support in the Grande Ronde basin. Of these funds, \$3.5 million was obligated to projects that have been implemented and are being monitored.

The Bureau of Reclamation has contributed funding for staff support, technical assistance, research grants, and consultation over the past five years. The USBR has joined BPA in providing funding for two subbasin watershed planners to work with landowners in development of sub-watershed action plans. USBR also provides technical staff support to aid in installation of flow measuring devices, monitoring-evaluation of lab samples, SWCD staffing to aid in work with private landowners, and technical designs for projects.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has agreed, to the extent feasible, to align their planning operations and watershed restoration efforts in coordination with the GRMWP Operations/Action Plan, in support of holistic tributary planning and restoration. They also contribute technical staff support and information to the GRMWP in its planning process. Although no specific funding can be specified, the assistance and project actions easily exceed several hundred thousand dollars per year.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Union and Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) contribute staff planning support, administrative support, and technical engineering support in the implementation of GRMWP restoration projects. They are also coordinating with the GRMWP on the Dept. of Agriculture SB 1010 water quality management plan for agricultural lands.

Other technical support and cooperative endeavors are provided by local county government and multiple state and federal agencies, such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Geology, Dept. of Transportation, Water Resources Dept., U.S. Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management to enable the fulfillment of habitat restoration in the Grande Ronde basin.

The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program meets monthly and holds work sessions periodically. Board members (14) donate a minimum of 616 hours per year to the program.

### **Staffing Organization and Assignments**

Baseline operation and administration of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program will be provided by the Executive Director, Program Planner, Data Base/GIS Technician and clerical staff. The Executive Director is appointed by the Union County Commission

and Wallowa County Court, employed through the College of Arts and Sciences at Eastern Oregon University, and assigned to the Board of Directors of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed. Funding is provided through a Cooperative Agreement between the Bonneville Power Administration and Eastern Oregon University.

The Program Planner and clerical staff are employees of the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Lab, assigned to the Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute for the GRMWP, and funded through this BPA contract with the BMNRI. The Program Planner provides project planning, development, and implementation as well as technical support. Clerical staff is to provide program support services.

Other support staff may be retained as needed on the basis of specific projects (i.e., project design and engineering).

The project 9292601 is a watershed project which has been underway since Sept. 1992; past costs are \$1,181,177/\$196,863 per year average.

#### **e. Methods.**

With the imminent ESA listing of spring chinook salmon on the horizon, the Union County Commission and Wallowa Court determined that a grass-roots, locally-based effort working to coordinate existing local, state and federal programs could effectively maintain, enhance, and restore our watershed. Joining in this effort the Northwest Power Planning Council selected the Grande Ronde basin as a model watershed for Oregon (as outlined in Section 7.6C-Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program 94-55), and the Governor's office through the Strategic Water Management Group certified the program. Bonneville Power Administration provides the administrative/project funding and Bureau of Reclamation has provided technical support and project funding. The program is also an initiative of Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, an entity of the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station.

##### **\*Local grass-roots effort**

##### **\*Addressing ESA listing - spring chinook salmon**

##### **\*Coordinating existing programs to restore our watershed**

##### **\*Partners**

The basin encompasses the Blue Mountain region of northeastern Oregon, comprised of 5,265 square miles and 280 streams and rivers containing over 2,900 miles of fisheries. Landownership is approximately 65% public and 35% private. The basin supports numerous healthy populations of fish and wildlife, as well as the ESA listed spring chinook salmon.

##### **\*Blue Mountain region of Oregon**

##### **\*5,265 sq. miles, 280 streams and rivers, 2,900 miles of fisheries**

### **\*Planning and implementing across jurisdictional boundaries**

Appointed in May of 1992, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMWP) Board of Directors represents a diverse group of interests with the common vision of a healthy watershed. Participants include stock-growers, farmers, tribes, environmentalists, elected officials, and public lands, community, forestry, and fish & wildlife representatives.

#### **\*Began in 1992**

#### **\*Representative of diverse interests**

A watershed can be managed to maintain and enhance natural aquatic biological diversity, to enhance or protect threatened species populations, to maximize natural resource yield in wildlife, water, commodities, or human uses, or to support the economic and social livelihood of a community. With that understanding, the Board formulated a mission statement which incorporates many of these elements. It is to **"develop and oversee the implementation, maintenance, and monitoring of coordinated resource management that will enhance the natural resources of the Grande Ronde basin."** Although addressing multiple elements in watershed restoration is perhaps more difficult than pursuing a single purpose, the Board felt this approach essential.

#### **\*Defined mission**

#### **\*Watershed approach, ridge-top to ridge-top, broader than single species**

An important first task was developing memorandums of understanding to create partnerships with local residents, state and federal agencies, tribes, and interest groups concerned with the management of the Grande Ronde watershed.

#### **\*MOU's creating partners**

A technical committee was formed consisting of biologists, hydrologists, a soil scientist, forester, and other resource specialists to advise and provide recommendations to the Board on planning direction, technical issues, and to review and evaluate project proposals for technical merit and adequacy. Local agency staffs, the tribes, and private individuals with technical expertise are playing a crucial, key role in the model watershed process by serving on this committee. Reviewing project proposals has become one of the main functions of the technical committee, and is an effective means for ensuring cooperation and coordination among agencies and the various projects and activities in the basin.

#### **\*Technical Committee - local resource specialists**

From there, stream survey data available from state and federal agencies were compiled into a **Habitat Assessment**, peer reviewed and accepted by the Board. This provided a sound "starting-point" to develop a plan and focus restoration activities.

Next the **Grande Ronde Model Watershed Operations-Action Plan** was prepared. It serves as a basin-wide framework to identify priority (for spring chinook salmon) sub-watersheds for more detailed planning. It incorporates information gathered from several prior planning documents as well as the Habitat Assessment. The Plan includes restoration criteria to aid in the process of prioritizing project actions. Staff is continuing to develop detailed sub-watershed plans and project actions, working with landowner groups and others as appropriate. Landowner participation in this process is voluntary.

About the same time the GRMWP began, Wallowa County was undertaking their own planning effort in developing the **Wallowa County-Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan**. Information from the WCSRP is incorporated into the Operations-Action Plan, and in implementing projects in the Wallowa subbasin, it is the guiding document.

Additionally, the model watershed program initiated the **Grande Ronde Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment** (GREDT) study. This was undertaken to provide technical information to the Board and technical committee in their effort to plan and implement watershed restoration activities. The study was motivated by a need for a science-based methodology that promotes effectiveness and accountability. The analysis focuses on spring chinook salmon, which serves as a diagnostic species, in the assessment of the condition of the watershed for sustainability of its resources and related societal values. This study assumes that humans and their values are integral parts of an ecosystem and that human communities within the Grande Ronde basin desire a healthy watershed--one that can sustain natural resources as well as economic and social values for future generations.

- \*Assessment of watershed conditions**

- \*Local planning and implementation documents**

- \*Science-based methodology that promotes effectiveness and accountability**

An effectiveness monitoring strategy has been developed and is being incorporated in each sub-watershed plan. This has included basin-wide coordination among all entities doing monitoring and establishing agreement to utilize the same protocols (established by EPA). On-going monitoring efforts have been identified and coordinated, and used to establish gaps that need to be addressed. Each project action also contains a monitoring component. Several projects include monitoring by local high school students.

- \*Effectiveness monitoring**

- \*Agreement on monitoring protocols across jurisdictional boundaries**

The model watershed has assisted in the development of many project proposals for habitat restoration in the basin. These projects involve private landowners, schools, organizations, tribes, and local, state, and federal government agencies. Funding has been secured and implementation completed for approximately 180 worthy, well-designed projects. The scope of these projects addresses factors such as fish passage

structures/irrigation diversion improvements, riparian and rangeland livestock management/off-stream water development, sediment, erosion reduction, water quality and quantity, fish habitat, technical seminars addressing riparian grazing, and education.

**\*On-the-ground results, 180 restoration projects**

**\*Educational opportunities, demonstration projects**

Funding for these projects has been available through private landowners cost-share, Oregon Watershed Health Program (state lottery funds), Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, and other state and federal agency programs, as well as private groups and organizations.

The GRMWP serves as an educational forum for landowner groups through coordination with the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and local Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Additionally, the model watershed program is defining for itself a role as facilitator of improved dialogue between local, state, tribes, and federal natural resource management agencies. **The model is especially helpful in encouraging coordination on issues beyond normal jurisdictional boundaries, and creating cooperative and incentive-based ways to encourage private landowners to take part in restoration efforts.**

Long-term project planning is ongoing, creating an advantage in securing and utilizing habitat restoration funds as opportunities arise. Project proposals in priority sub-watersheds are developed with the objective to address identified environmental conditions such as fish passage problems, substandard riparian conditions (i.e. streambank erosion, streambed sedimentation, altered channel morphology, losses of pools, and reduced habitat complexity), upland conditions producing sediment, poor water quality, and depleted flow conditions.

In conclusion, the GRMWP is an exciting and innovative experiment in citizen-based natural resource planning by coordinating among all entities involved in watershed activities in the basin and is charged with providing a model for other watershed basins to consider.

**Considerations:**

It takes time to create partnerships and develop a strong basin council. **Being based in local county government has been very positive and offered additional opportunities. A watershed council must allow for a diverse group of interests, local agendas, and perspectives.**

**Planning is vital** before moving to projects; **the key is a local assessment** of environmental conditions in order to establish priorities driven by the local governments, agencies, tribes and community. The time expended for this is also well utilized in developing local consensus and unity.

Realize project development is very time consuming, and **many local entities must be involved** and incorporated in the process. **Implementation is a multi-year process**, recognizing our actions today will make a difference in the quality of our environment 25-50 years from now.

**The availability of administrative and technical assistance/support to the watershed council is a crucial component.**

**f. Facilities and equipment.**

- \*Rented office space, with conference area for larger group meetings
- \*Office machines (copier, fax, typewriter, desk top calculators)
- \*Computers (PC's, printers, Unix Sunstation for networking & limited GIS capability)
- \*Office furniture (desks, chairs, conference room tables & chairs, filing cabinets, map files)
- \*Telephones

Much of the equipment has been acquired from government surplus lists. Unix Sunstation & some PC's are on loan from Oregon Department of Agriculture & Oregon Water Resources Department. Telephone lines & vehicle available through partnership with U.S. Forest Service.

**g. References.**

Stream & Riparian Conditions in the Grande Ronde Basin, Clearwater BioStudies, Inc., 1993, Charles W. Huntington, 23252 S. Central Point Rd., Canby, OR 97013

GRMWP Operations/Action Plan, May 1994; Dr. David Duncan & Dr. George Cawthon, PNW Region, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, ID

Wallowa County-Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan, August 1993; Citizens of Wallowa; Wallowa County Court, Enterprise, OR

Application of the Ecosystem Diagnosis & Treatment Method to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project, January 1997; L. Mobrand, L. Estelle, Mobrand Biometrics, Vashon Island, WA; BPA #94AM33243

Grande Ronde Basin Water Quality Monitoring, 1997; Dr. K. Diebel, Union Soil & Water Conservation District; Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program; Wallowa Soil & Water Conservation District

## **Section 8. Relationships to other projects**

The GRMWP serves as an educational forum for landowner groups through coordination with the Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, and sub-watershed landowner groups. Additionally, the model watershed has established the role as facilitator to improve dialogue among local, state, tribes, and federal natural resource agencies by hosting monthly round-table discussion and coordination sessions. This has been especially successful in encouraging coordination on issues beyond normal jurisdictional boundaries, and creating cooperative incentive-based ways to encourage private landowners to take part in restoration efforts.

Multiple agencies and citizens share partnerships with the GRMWP, which are critical to its success. Funding received from BPA is leveraged for a considerable amount of in-kind services, research grants, and project funding to enable the implementation of Program goals. The Bureau of Reclamation has contributed funding in staff support, technical assistance/writing, research, and consultation. Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board has provided technical support and project implementation funds. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has provided technical assistance, and to the extent feasible, aligned their planning operations, watershed analysis, and watershed restoration efforts with those of the GRMWP. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Union and Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and state agencies (ODFW, ODF, DEQ, OWRD) contribute staff planning support, technical assistance, project management, and facilitation for landowner meetings. Computer systems have been provided by Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and Oregon Water Resources Department.

## **Section 9. Key personnel**

Patricia N. Perry, Executive Director, full-time (40 plus hours per week)

Lyle Kuchenbecker, Program Planner, full-time (40 plus hours per week)

### **PATRICIA N. PERRY**

#### **Experience:**

U.S. Forest Service - Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program September 1992 - present

PNW Lab - Supervisor: Dr. Larry Hartmann (541) 962-6537. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program is an initiative of the Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute located at the PNW Lab in La Grande, OR. On leave without pay from the Forest Service and employed by Eastern Oregon University. Served as the Executive Director since November 1994; prior to being the Executive Director I was the Program Coordinator (Forest Service Position Description - Public Affairs Specialist GS-09). This has given me the opportunity to demonstrate skills in leadership ability, organization, coordination, and cooperation.

Responsibilities/tasks successfully completed include:

- \* Preparation of program work plans and budget in order to secure Bonneville Power Administration funding (\$300,000 admin. annually;

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\$1,100,000 project funds annually); briefing material and staff reports for Board of Directors; coordination of projects and activities with program subbasin groups

- \* Provided program briefings, tours, presentations, and panel discussions for Governor Kitzhaber, key legislators and legislative committees, various state agencies & their commissions, tribes, local organizations, private landowners and public
- \* Development of effective communications and working relationships with key contacts/individuals involved in furthering program efforts; Organized public involvement activities, including technical training seminars (grazing) for landowners

In addition, program administration and other activities aside from those listed above have been continued. My fundamental understanding of natural resource issues and ability to work cooperatively with people of very diverse backgrounds has aided me in working with private landowners, program staff and committees, and other programs in discussing goals, objectives, and management strategies.

#### U.S. Forest Service April 1989 - August 1992

Kootenai National Forest, Fortine Ranger District - Kris Nixon, Supervisor (current telephone number 307-739-5500 Bridger-Teton N. F.) Business Management Assistant - supervised office staff (receptionist and time and attendance clerks) and was responsible for efficient functioning of the office; Purchasing Agent for the Ranger District - utilized third party drafts, credit cards, and managed imprest funds (purchasing authority could possibly be reinstated by Wallowa-Whitman N. F.); Accounting Clerk - tracked program manager costs utilizing NFC reports (i.e. monthly transaction registers, program manager statements, etc.), did accounting adjustments; Business Management Clerk - time and attendance reports and reception duties.

Port of Pend Oreille/Pend Oreille Valley Railroad - Asst. Manager for Traffic & Finance February 1985 - October 1985; Usk, Washington (509) 445-1090 - Supervisor - Jim Young & Board of Commissioners. Job required the ability to represent the Port District at public meetings; was responsible for all accounting activities, including complying with state audits and regulations for Port Districts; the ability to work well with a Board of Commissioners, customers, and the general public; a working knowledge of the railroad system; and the ability to use good judgement in making decisions quickly. Also supervised the train and track crews (approx. 12 people).

#### **Education:**

Spokane Falls Community College - May 1977, AAS - Business/Secretarial

Spokane, WA GPA 3.75; Related Training Courses & Conferences:

People Problems & How to Manage Them - Forest Service

Administrative Management - Forest Service

Small Purchasing, Advanced Small Purchasing, Imprest Fund training seminars (80 hours) - Forest Service

Budget & Finance Workshop - Forest Service

Fundamentals of Internet - GRMWP

**Recent Awards:**

1995, 1994, 1993 (4) - Certificates of Merit, Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute, GRMWP

1992 - Certificate of Merit, USFS Fortine Ranger District

1991, 1990 - Certificate of Merit, USFS Eureka Ranger District

**LYLE A. KUCHENBECKER  
GRMWP PLANNER**

Duties

Habitat Restoration Planning/Project Development

Design, process and collect information to conduct habitat restoration planning

Identify projects, prepare proposals, facilitate review and approval

Coordinate basin-wide monitoring activities

Prepare project Biological Assessments and other documentation

Technical Committee

Provides support to Technical Committee

Prepares program reports and documents, materials and meeting notes

Implements directives of the Technical Committee

Develops & acquires information for long-term project funding

Public Information

Participates in public information meetings

Prepares materials for presentation and presents materials

Prepares program support materials

Program Participation

Plans and organizes information for program activities

Attends Board meetings and interacts appropriately

Provides assistance to the Board as requested

Experience

U.S. Forest Service - Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program - February 1994 to  
present

Detail to the GRMWP - See above duties.

U.S. Forest Service - La Grande Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
NEPA Planner - September 1992 - February 1994

Ranger District Planning Staff

Responsible for all NEPA planning on the Ranger District

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U.S. Forest Service - La Grande Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
INFORMS Project Leader - October 1990 - September 1992.

Special Demo project to test the feasibility of incorporating state-of-the-art GIS techniques into NEPA planning and analysis.

U.S. Forest Service - La Grande Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest,  
District Silviculturist - October 1985 - October 1990

Administration of the District Silviculture Department which was responsible for all District silvicultural prescriptions, planting thinning and tree improvement programs.

U.S. Forest Service - Union Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, District  
Silviculturist - July 1980 - October 1985

Duties same as above.

U.S. Forest Service - Dale Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest.

U.S. Forest Service - Southern Forest & Range Experiment Station, New Orleans, La.

#### Special Qualifications

U.S. Forest Service - Region 6 Certified Silviculturist, 1981, 1985

#### Education

B.S. Forest Management University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point 1972

U.S. Forest Service - Silvicultural Institute, 1980

## **Section 10. Information/technology transfer**

Public information/involvement and education activities, coordinate opportunities with others in the basin (i.e. Soil & Water Conservation Districts). Provide a forum for discussion of watershed issues, a place for constituencies to listen and understand each other's interests and perspectives. Make preparations for and facilitate landowner meetings, tours, presentations, displays at county fairs, etc. Organize and coordinate educational seminars and activities for stakeholders, including technical information on watershed restoration & management actions, and monitoring and evaluation actions. Publish newsletters, articles in local newspapers, brochures on BMP's.